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Message Text

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51
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /152 W
---------- 079457
R 151240Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2646
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 3548

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, VN, VS, SW
SUBJECT: ABORTED VISIT OF GVN AMBASSADOR TO STOCKHOLM

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 3530; (B) STOCKHOLM 3492

1. IN CALL ON ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS
EDELSTAM, POLITICAL COUNSELOR RAISED QUESTION OF ABORTED
VISIT TO STOCKHOLM OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TO
BONN, NGUYEN PHUONG THIEP (REF A). EDELSTAM SAID HE
REGRETTED THAT THIEP HAD SO ABRUPTLY TERMINATED HIS
VISIT, AND REGARDED IT AS A "SILLY" GESTURE. THE REASON
FOR THIEPS DECISION, EDELSTAM CONTINUED, WAS THAT THIEP
HAD APPARENTLY CONCLUDED THAT THE GOS HAD DELIBERATELY LEAKED
TO THE PRESS ITS PLANS TO ENHANCE THE STATUS OF THE PRG INFORMATION
OFFICE IN STOCKHOLM (REB B). HOWEVER, EDELSTAM DENIED
THAT THE GOS HAD LEAKED THE STORY BUT OBSERVED IT WAS
PROBABLE THAT THE PRG HAD DONE SO IN ORDER TO EMBARRASS
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THIEP ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT.

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2. POLITICAL COUNSELOR UTILIZED OCCASION ONCE AGAIN EXPRESS STRONG US OBJECTIONS TO ANY MOVE TO RECOGNIZE PRG. SPEAKING EMPHATICALLY, EDELSTAM SAID GOS "ABSOLUTELY" DID NOT INTEND TO RECOGNIZE PRG.

3. COMMENT: AS POINTED OUT IN REF A, EDELSTAM'S "REGRETS" TO THE CONTRARY, GOS IS UNDOUBTEDLY RELIEVED THAT THIEP CHOSE TO ABANDON HIS MISSION, INCLUDING THE PLANNED MEETING WITH EDELSTAM. HOWEVER, MOVE TOOK SOUTH VIETNAMESE SUPPORTERS IN STOCKHOLM BY SURPRISE; A CONSERVATIVE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT INFORMED POL COUNSELOR THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND RECEPTION IN THIEP'S HONOR EVENING OF AUGUST 14, PLANNED BY GROUP OF CONSERVATIVE BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICIANS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS SAIGON GOVERN-MENT.

4. WHILE THIEP HAD AMPLE GROUNDS TO BE IRRITATED AT APPARENTLY DELIBERATE LEAK OF GOS PLANS TO UPGRADE PRG OFFICE ON VERY DAY OF HIS ARRIVAL IN STOCKHOLM, HE NEVER-THELESS MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT GOS INTEREST IN "BALANCING" ITS HEAVILY PRO-PRG LINE WITH GESTURE TOWARDS GVN TO EFFECTIVELY PRESENT GVN CASE TO MFA, AND TO MEET WITH GVN SUPPORTERS IN SWEDEN.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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